

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI IMMEDIATE

INFO USLO PEKING PRIORITY

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

S E C R E T STATE 231267

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, TW, HK

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR SHEN MEETING WITH SECRETARY

REF: TAIPEI 6924 (NOTAL)

1. ROC AMBASSADOR SHEN MET WITH THE SECRETARY

NOVEMBER 19 TO DISCUSS US-ROC AND US-PRC RELATIONS IN THE WAKE OF THE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO PEKING. FOLLOWING SUMMARIZES HIGHLIGHTS OF THAT CONVERSATION.

2. THE SECRETARY TOLD SHEN THAT THE COMMUNIQUE SAID

EVERYTHING THERE WAS TO SAY AND THAT THERE WAS NO SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS VISITS. OUR STATEMENT ON TAIWAN REPEATED THE SECTION IN THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE. PEKING STATEMENT ON TAIWAN WAS NEW, BUT THE SECRETARY SAID HE HAD NOT HAD A CHANCE TO EXPLORE WHAT IT MEANT SINCE IT WAS PUT IN ON THE LAST DAY.

3. RESPONDING TO AMBASSADOR SHEN'S QUESTION, THE

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SECRETARY STATED THERE WAS NO SIGNIFICANCE IN THE OMISSION IN THIS COMMUNIQUE OF THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE EXPRESSION OF AN INTEREST IN A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. THE US DEFENSE COMMITMENT IS ABSOLUTELY FIRM AND WE HAVE MADE THAT

ABUNDANTLY CLEAR. ASKED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN NEXT IN US-PRC RELATIONS, THE SECRETARY ASSURED SHEN THAT THE US HAS NO IMMEDIATE INTENTIONS OR PLANS TO DO ANYTHING. THE PRESS

FOCUSED ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BUT THE IDEA THAT WE ARE COMPULSIVELY SEEKING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IS NONSENSE. THE SECRETARY WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE WANTED TO EXPLORE WHAT THE CHINESE MEANT BY CONFIRMING THE PRINCIPLE OF ONE CHINA BUT ADDED THAT THIS WOULD TAKE TIME AND THAT EVEN WHEN WE FIND OUT WHAT THEY WANT, WE WON'T NECESSARILY DO IT.

4. COMMENTING ON THE REFERENCE IN THE COMMUNIQUE TO EXPANDING THE FUNCTIONS OF THE LIAISON OFFICE, THE SECRETARY NOTED THAT WE HAD NO TRADE OR COMMERCIAL ATTACHES THERE NOW AND THAT EXPANDING THE FUNCTIONS WOULD INCLUDE THINGS LIKE THAT. ASKED IF THE REFERENCE IN THE COMMUNIQUE TO FREQUENT HIGH-LEVEL CONTACTS MEANT THAT THERE WOULD BE HIGH-LEVEL VISITS FROM PEKING TO THE US, THE SECRETARY COMMENTED THAT SHEN HAD DRAFTED ENOUGH COMMUNIQUE TO KNOW THAT NOT EVERYTHING IN THEM MEANS SOMETHING CONCRETE.

5. IN RESPONSE TO SHEN'S REQUEST FOR ADVICE ON WHAT THE ROC SHOULD DO, THE SECRETARY SAID THAT THE ROC HAD PURSUED A WISE POLICY SHOWING GREAT RESTRAINT AND WISDOM. PAINFUL AS IT MAY BE THE ROC SHOULD CONTINUE THIS POLICY.

6. FOR TAIPEI: REFTEL REQUESTED PERMISSION TO PROVIDE MOFA WITH FULL TEXT OF SECRETARY'S NOVEMBER 14 PRESS BACKGROUNDER. SINCE SECRETARY HAS PERSONALLY CONVEYED MAIN POINTS OF THAT BACKGROUNDER TO SHEN, WE WOULD PREFER THAT ROC NOT BE IN POSITION TO QUOTE BACK TO US VERBATIM STATEMENTS SECRETARY MADE ON NOVEMBER 14 AND TO SEEK CLARIFICATION OF IMAGINED DIFFERENCES IN EMPHASIS OR NUANCE BETWEEN WHAT SECRETARY SAID TO PRESS
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AND WHAT HE TOLD SHEN. SUGGEST THEREFORE THAT AS NECESSARY YOU CLARIFY PRESS VERSIONS BY DRAWING ON SECRETARY-SHEN MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION, FULL TEXT OF WHICH BEING SENT TO YOU BY POUCH.

KISSINGER

SECRET

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